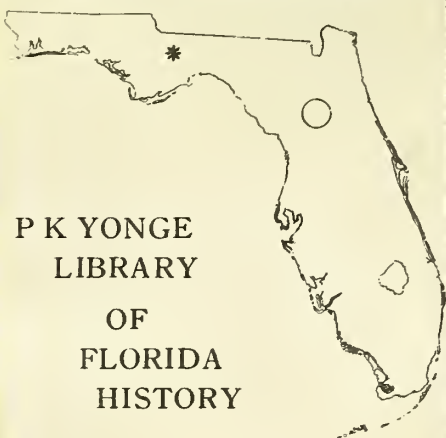


History of State
Conference of
Social Work,
1911-1928

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HISTORY

History of State Conference of Social Work

1st Conference of Charities and Corrections -- 1911

The State Conference of Social Work, organized in 1911 as The State Conference of Charities and Corrections, is the eldest child of the Children's Home Society of Florida. Mr. Fagg lately come to Florida and wanting to meet and know the few trained social workers scattered throughout the state persuaded the Board of Directors of the Children's Home Society and the Jacksonville Woman's Club, jointly to finance that first conference in Jacksonville. Of the 427 paid memberships all but 96 were from Jacksonville. 6 states, other than Florida, and England were represented. Mr. Fagg outlined the purposes of the conference as the first great step in the toward getting together intelligent people to search for the causes of certain conditions and deal with these causes rather than worry endlessly with effects achieving only temporary results. The conference exists he said to discuss problems of social welfare, to promote needed reforms by the dissemination of knowledge. It will not formulate platforms.

Dr. W. F. Blackman, then President of Rollins College, was elected President and Marcus Fagg, Vice-president. Victor R. Manning, the first General Secretary of the Associated Charities of Jacksonville was Secretary. Mr. W. A. Loyd, General Secretary of Y. M. C. A. in Jacksonville, served as temporary president at its first meeting. The outstanding speakers were Dr. Edward T. Devine of New York and Judge Samuel Black of Columbus, Ohio. At this first conference among the subjects discussed were: State Institutions: Organized Charity; Rehabilitation of Families; Friendly Visiting; Juvenile Courts; The Child Problem in Florida - still very much a problem, Homeless Men and the Passing on Evil. And in spite of our advanced knowledge of handling transients we are still using the methods of 1911, "punitive, repressive, and careless and sentimental."



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the name in this country, and the eagerness with which students pursue its courses, proves that the admission was no mistake."

He ends by hoping that "sometime we will have an educational committee connected with this conference, the business of which will be to educate the people in regard to the facts of poverty and crime - to send out bulletins, it may be, warning people of sources of danger and contamination as boards of health do now. Such a committee, if given sufficient power and funds, could also accomplish a good work in securing adequate instructions in these matters, not alone in colleges and universities, but even in the public schools. Some day instruction in this line will be considered as important as instruction in physiology - or Latin."

The conference proceedings were printed in an 85 page pamphlet and so far as is known Mr. Fagg has the only copy in existence.

2nd Conference of Charities and Corrections

1912

The 2nd Conference met in Tampa in December 1912 in the old Tampa Bay Hotel with Dr. Blackman presiding. "Uncle Alex" Johnson, the General Secretary of the National Conference of Charities and Corrections and Owen B. Lovejoy, Secretary of the National Child Labor Committee were the chief speakers. This second conference had for its central theme "The Abnormal Classes of Society" and the president spoke on "Abnormal Classes, Causes and Treatment". Prof. L. L. Bernard, then on the faculty of the University of Florida, discussed "The Abnormal Classes, Their Extent, Importance and History" while Alexander Johnson told of "The Burden of Feeble-mindedness", "The Duty of the State in the Abnormal Class" and "Thirty-five Years of Organized Charity". Owen Lovejoy spoke on "Child Labor in the South" and Marcus Fagg on "The Dependent Child in Florida". He advocated day nurseries and said "what Florida needs more than anything else is more boarding homes for children" - a need we are just beginning to attempt to supply.

The Problem of the Non-Resident Dependent was ably presented by B. T. Solenstein, 2nd Secretary of Associated Charities of Jacksonville, who stated a fact - only recently restated on newer evidence in Miss Lundberg's report. Mr. Solenstein said, "Perhaps there is no state in the Union into which paupers drift more freely, and in which dependents are shipped about from place to place with less responsibility than right here in our own state. From 50 to 75 per cent of the beneficiaries of our charitable organizations and relief agencies are non-resident organizations.

Other papers were The Juvenile Court by Judge Henry Cohen of Tampa and the Convict Lease System by Frank E. Jennings of Jacksonville.

The proceedings of this conference were also printed and only one

copy is known to exist - Mr. Fagg has it.

3rd Conference of Charities and Corrections

1914

The third conference of charities and corrections met in Gainesville in February 1914 in the old Chautauqua auditorium. For some reason -- not learned -- there was no conference in 1913. Governor Park Trammell had been made president of the 1912 conference in Tampa. The purpose of the conference was set forth -

The Purpose of the Conference

(1914)

Florida as yet has made no provision for its feeble-minded, its epileptic, nor its tubercular children or adults.

It has no place for its delinquent girls - white, or black. Its care of its poor and dependent classes, through its county poor farms, is not systematic and affords opportunity for duplication of relief, and the encouragement of pauperism.

Its marriage law is miserably weak; its wife desertion law not effective, and every condition tending to the increase of criminals, defectives, dependents, and pauper classes is overlooked or neglected.

These conditions should not be, they need not be, they will not be, tolerated when the citizens of Florida are aware of the facts, and are organized for better conditions along these lines.

The purpose of the Conference is to furnish the information, the inspiration, the organization, that will bring about the needed results.

To have the State of Florida properly provide for all defective, dependent, delinquent and criminal cases is the size of the conference -- to the end that Florida might be a bigger, better, purer and grander Florida in every sense.

Your interest and help--and that of your church, your club, your society, your organization, your ledge--is needed to bring about these great aims and purposes. Will you help?

Dr. Alexander Johnson, Secretary of the National Conference, was again present.

Dr. Graham Taylor of Chicago discussed the Social Function of the Church.

Governor Trammell advocated a State Orphanage for dependent children.

J. C. Lanier, recently appointed Probation Officer for Duval County, spoke on the Function of the Juvenile Court and Juvenile Probation.

Mothers' Pensions were advocated, perhaps for the first time in Florida, by Mrs. W. B. Young who had made a thorough study of the laws as administered in the few states having this form of legislation.

Drug Addiction, Tuberculosis, Crime, Deserters, Organized Charity, Child Labor, Recreation, Extension Work, The Insance were other topics.

Joseph C. Logan of Atlanta was on the program as was Dr. A. J. McKelway of Washington, D C. Dr. McKelway's subject was Social Justice. "Our great problem," he said, "is the equitable division of the profits of industry. Money is sensitive when it is suggested that justice is better than charity. We have come to a new vision of the duty of the modern good Samaritan, to organize a committee that shall stop highway robbery, that may even inquire into the problem "what is so wrong with our social system that men are drawn into the ranks of the bandittes?" But we must not in the meantime forget to succor the wounded man; to give first aid to the injured, to put him on our own beast and carry him to the inn, and make our little contribution towards his board while there."

Other high notes of the conference were "the average social reformer will work his head off to get certain laws passed and therefore is without a head

to secure their enforcement afterward."

"Movies" are mentioned for the first time and in a paper read on the Educational Value of Moving Pictures - the speaker quoted a 3 year old as saying, "The best show I like is _____ because I see a beautiful vaudeville and a lady smoking."

Mr. Fagg discussed "How to Deal with Wife Deserters and Recreant Husbands."

It was at this conference that only 26 paid \$5.00 for sustaining membership and almost 50 paid the one dollar fee. The funds were so short that Mrs. Willis M. Ball, Mrs. Frank S. Jennings, Mrs. W. B. Young and Marcus Fagg banded together to lend the local committee funds for Dr. Taylor's expenses.

The State Conference has a copy of the Proceedings.

BECAUSE OF THE WORLD WAR THERE WERE NO MEETINGS OF THE
CONFERENCE FROM 1914 to 1920.

4th State Conference of Social Work

1920

In 1920 the social workers of Florida met in Jacksonville in the Seminole Hotel for the 4th time. The name had been changed from Conference of Charities and Corrections to Florida State Conference of Social Work but when and where this change occurred no record is available. Although it was the 4th in number it had been 5 years since the socially minded people of Florida had met to discuss her problems. In July 1914 after the meeting of the last conference the world had begun to go to war - and in the 5 years intervening between the two conference, the war had ended. It had solved few questions, on the contrary it had piled up many difficult and conflicting problems for social workers. Had the conference met in 1919 it is likely that the program would have reflected more clearly some of these new questions but by 1920 many of them had shaken down into parts of the same old problems that social workers had faced before the war. One definitely new note was struck however when Dr. W. W. MacDonnell, then City Health Officer of Jacksonville, called on women to be ready to enjoy the rights of suffrage soon to be theirs!

The President, Rev. L. E. McNair, pastor of the 1st Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville, spoke on "A Big Program for a New Era". Mr. W. S. Criswell was Secretary. The Hon. Rowland B. Mahoney, of the U. S. Dept of Labor, said in his address, "just now the tendency in this country seems to be in the direction of legal and legislative authority."

The Red Cross was represented by Joe Logan of Atlanta and many executive secretaries of local Red Cross Chapters. The Red Cross had held a case work institute in Jacksonville the preceding spring and many freshly trained - shall we say? - social workers were abroad in the land. Two of them, our present Assistant Commissioner of Welfare and Elizabeth Cooley who has worked so faithfully for workman's compensation, sat on some steps near conference headquarters and commented on the crowd as it entered. They agreed they did

not care so much for the general get up of social workers and decided they would change their professions! The Red Cross had a big luncheon meeting which set the pace for others which followed for the next 8 years (or more).

Another first was Mental Hygiene, a new subject for the conference. And social hygiene also appeared on the program. Compulsory education to prevent ignorance and delinquency was discussed.

A hospital for crippled children was advocated. The World War influence was shown by a speaker reporting on the State Training School for Boys at Marianna, praised its "military system" which was said to be in effect as much as possible.

Jails were characterized by another speaker as "moral and baths".

The word "transient" was used for the first time in a conference paper - though the subject was old - by Virgil V. Johnson of the National Traveler's Aid.

In 1917 Jacksonville Board of Charities had been established and at this conference its work was discussed and the statement made that it needed \$26,000 to operate that year!

The Legislature had passed the Mothers' Pension bill in 1919 and the subject was one of the live topics before the conference.

Altogether it was a fine, large conference and adjourned to meet the following year in the same place. The proceedings were published in a 38 page pamphlet.

5th State Conference of Social Work

1921

In April 1921 the Social Workers again gathered in Jacksonville for the 5th Conference of Social Work. Jacksonville was the host city as no other city at that time seemed interested in entertaining the conference. Dr. Edward T. Copradi, President of Florida State College for Women, was president.

Dr. C. C. Carstens of the Child Welfare League of America, a frequent visitor to Florida conferences since, was with the group for the first time. His subject was serving home and family life and he advocated boarding homes for children (in 1935, 14 years later, the State Board of Public Welfare set up minimum standards and is making a definite effort toward developing this form of child welfare). Mrs. Martha P. Falconer of the American Social Hygiene Association said "sons keep the family auto out at all hours and daughters run loose at night." (In 1921 we were not far from the World War and its back wash.) Mrs. Falconer was one of the head line speakers as was Dr. W. H. Gillette of the United Service Public Health Service. Dr. Edward T. Devine was a guest speaker for the second time, his subject was "American Ideals". "America alone seems prosperous," he said, and this prosperity he attributed to the fact that we are educating our people. He advocated "making politics safe" as we progress in the use of public funds. J. B. Williams of recreation fame was on the program as was Joe Logan again. The Red Cross had a big place in the conference. Miss Elizabeth Cooley, then with the Red Cross in Miami, reported that Polk County Red Cross had made its first appeal to the County Commissioners for a County Home and Hospital (later a reality).

Tuberculosis was one of the topics on the program and it was said

6th Conference of Social Work

1922

The sixth conference was held in 1922 at Miami. Mrs. Edgar Lewis of Fort Pierce was President and W. C. Criswell again the Secretary. No proceedings were published and no copy of the program is available. Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen was one of the speakers at Red Cross Luncheon, as was William Fieser, American Red Cross, and Joe. Logan. Mrs. Martha P. Falconer was a conference speaker for the 2nd time. Mr. Fagg's open letter to the Chairman of Legislation of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, calling attention to needed improvements, particularly to the need of a State Welfare Board, was a matter of discussion and interest.

The meetings were held in the Woman's Club and were well attended.

Note: It is hoped that some one who attended that meeting saved a program and will be willing to give it to the conference for a permanent record.

7th State Conference of Social Work

1923

The seventh conference was held at St. Petersburg in March 1923, Mrs. Owen Lovejoy was President and Owen Lovejoy spoke on "50 Years of Social Work Progress, Miss Elizabeth Cooley was Secretary. This was the first conference to offer a prize for attendance. No proceedings were published. The prize was the U. S. Flag donated by D.A.R.; G.A.R.; U.D.C.; Daughters of the Union; Woman's Relief Corps; National Alliance of Daughters of Union Vets.

This meeting was notable because of its consideration of the need and advisability of having a State Board of Public Welfare in Florida. Most of the out of state speakers brought information in regard to State Boards in other states. Among the out of state speakers were Mrs. Kate Burr Johnson, North Carolina State Welfare Commissioner; Dr. Wilson C. Smillie of New York; Mrs. L. B. Rush(now Mrs. A. M. Tunstaff) Alabama Secretary of Public Welfare; Dr. Howard W. Odum, Chapel Hill, N. C. Training School for Public Welfare; Mr. Frank Bane of Richmond, Va., Commissioner of Public Welfare; Joseph C. Logan, Atlanta, Ga.,; Mr. Burr Blackburn, Atlanta, Ga., Secretary of Public Welfare; Mrs. Martha P. Falconer, New York; and Hon. Amos W. Butler, Indianapolis, Ind.

Among the Florida speakers were the following: J. S. Blich, Raiford; Miss Julia Hopkins, Jacksonville; Judge R. L. McCarley, West Palm Beach; Miss Marcia Pratt Johnson, Jacksonville, now F.E.R.A. Supervisor, Orlando; Mrs. Idelle Conkling, West Palm Beach; Hon. I. Garland Biggers, West Palm Beach; Elizabeth Skinner (Jackson), Tampa, now studying at the University of Chicago; Dr. B. C. Riley, Gainesville; Miss Sara Partridge, Tallahassee; Judge W. S. Criswell, Jacksonville; Mr. W. G. Brorain, Tampa; Miss Laurie Jean Reid, Jacksonville;

Prof. L. M. Bristol, Gainesville, Plan for creating a Children's Code Commission was made to present to legislature; Mrs. Ruth W. Atkinson, Tampa, Director of Child Welfare, State Board, presided at the Red Cross section meeting; Judge Donald A. Cheney, Orlando; J. C. Lanier, Jacksonville; Judge Raleigh Petteway, Tampa; Mrs. Ida Dann, St. Petersburg, still a social worker; Dr. B. L. Arms, Jacksonville; Miss Bertha Austin, West Palm Beach now Mrs. Bedell.

This conference was notable in that it provided free lodging for all who attended - the only time this was ever done. General subjects were Welfare, Health and Education. Addresses given were "The State Board of Public Welfare", "Social Significance of Heart Disease", "Social Aspects of Tuberculosis", "Problems of Vocational Rehabilitation", "Health & Education", "Educational Survey Commission", "The Child, The Family and the Court", "Domestic Relations Court", "Motivation Thru Morals", "County Organizations", etc.

The banquet program, a combination of fun and seriousness, was featured by popular songs; characterization; dramatic readings; the presentation of the loving cup for attendance and round table conclusions on "what we talked about". (Who has the cup -- and the flag?)

Some one is said to have reported at this conference that 17 years before (1906) there had been only one social worker in Florida - (can anyone give the name of that pioneer?)

Only one copy of the program of this conference which did so much to arouse the interest of the state in the need of a State Board of Welfare and of the Children's Code Commission has been located.

Note: The children's Code Commission sponsored by the State Federation of Women's Clubs and the State Conference was created by the legislature of 1923 but the bill carried no appropriation.

games, interposed the serious papers and discussions. Plans for beach frolic and playground demonstrations were for the most part frustrated by downpours of rain -- but all had a good time.

With reference to meetings of related groups, the Red Cross workers of the State had a most excellent gathering the day preceding the opening of the state conference. Some seventy delegates were present and under the leadership of Dr. Thomas Greene of the National Headquarters, Miss Jane Van de Vrede of the southern division staff, Misses Cooley and Crawford, field representatives for Florida, and Mr. John Turner, state director, many important problems were discussed. Those interested in probation work in the state had a "get-together" session and plan a separate day's meeting each year hereafter in connection with the state conference. But most important of all was the spirit manifested of eagerness to render service in the interest of the "underprivileged" without regard to personal ambition or organization glory. This was revealed conspicuously on two occasions: First, in connection with the selection of the place for the holding of the 1925 conference. Orlando, St. Augustine and Gainesville were chief contenders for the honor, but when it was thought best to center the work of the year around the Children's Code Commission and make the next conference a sort of training school in social legislation, Judge Cheney, who had presented the invitation from Orlando graciously moved that the conference accept the invitation from Gainesville and St. Augustine stood ready to second the motion. The second illustration came in response to the suggestion of Miss Reba Harris of the Florida Public Health Association, that we should be interested in getting a health program across without regard to who got the credit. "Who cares, so long as the work is done!" became the spontaneous slogan for the year!

The state conference was further distinguished in having present three of the past presidents of the National Conference of Social Work: Hon. Elmer W. Butler of Indiana, for many years secretary of the state board of charities and a former president of the National Prison Association; Col. C. E. Foulmer, now of

Lake North but long identified with welfare work in Minnesota and Kansas, and Owen Lovejoy, present secretary of the National Child Labor Committee. Others from outside the state who led in discussions were Dr. C. Benke McHenry of the Caswell Training School, Winston, N. C.; Miss Virginia Kelly, New York, assistant director of the National Travelers Aid Society, and Miss Josephine Brown, New York, associate field director of the American Association for Organizing Social Work.

9th State Conference of Social Work - 1925

The 9th Conference of Social Work was held at Gainesville in February 1925 with Dr. L. M. Bristol president for the second consecutive year. Dr. Ralph Barnes continued as secretary.

The outstanding event of the conference was the first report of The Children's Code Commission made by Ruth Berlozheimer, of the Child Welfare League of America(?) who had spent two months studying the parole work of state institutions. The plan for this commission had been presented to the conference in St. Petersburg 2 years before by Dr. Bristol. The conference concerned itself also with the question of an enabling act for county welfare units, with probation and parole.

Simultaneously the University of Florida gave a 4 weeks short course for social workers and present on that faculty were Dr. C. C. Carstens and Lucile Chamberlain of the New York School of Social Work. A psychiatric clinic was held at the farm colony for the benefit of students and social workers. The statement was made at the conference that the demand for social workers far exceeded the supply. Only 8 counties had social agencies.

Out of state speakers were Miss Katharine Lenroot, now Chief of the Children's Bureau and honor guest at our conference here; Miss Josephine Brown, then with the Family Welfare Association of America and now National Supervisor of Social Work with Emergency Relief Administration; Miss Jane Van de Vrede, Atlanta, Director of Red Cross nursing service in the Southern division and J. C. Leonard, Director, County Organizations in North Carolina State Department of Public Welfare, who spoke on the North Carolina plan - (Mr. Leonard told the "historian" that he made a very poor speech but he attributes a part of the failure to the fact that he came to Florida without his over coat and Florida had one of those "unusual cold spells" we have several of every winter.)

Health work, as always, figured conspicuously in the program. Three papers were read "Health Work in Relation to Social Work"; "Tuberculosis Survey in Florida" and "Report of Tampa Health Survey".

The last day of the conference was characterized by a motorcade to the State Prison Farm at Raiford and the last meeting of the conference was held there. The subjects discussed were "What the National Prison Association thinks of the State Prison Farms"; "Standardizing the work of Probation and Parole" and "What Can We Do"?

No printed report was made of the conference and no record of the number present but it was a very constructive conference.

10th State Conference of Social Work - 1926

The tenth conference was held at Orlando in April 1926 with Judge Donald A. Cheney of Orlando as President, Dr. Ralph E. Barnes was Secretary for the 3rd time. No proceedings were published but Judge Cheney spared no expense in bringing to that conference a group of noted celebrities from out of the state, among these were: Dr. Sigmund Spaeth, Dr. Worth M. Tippy, Francis McLean, Dr. C. C. Carstens, all of New York; Cheney C. Jones, Boston, Mass.; Edith E. Ferrell, New York; Miss Alice McMaster of Atlanta, now with F.E.R.A. in Florida, spoke on the division between Child Welfare, Family Welfare and Traveler's Aid which was just then going professional; Miss Mary E. McChristie, Girls' Referee of the Juvenile Court, Cincinnati; Dr. Edgar A. Doll of the Training School, Vineland, N. J.

Among the Florida celebrities appearing on the program were: Ken Guernsey, Dr. Hamilton Holt, and the small group that has made the conference the vital influence it is in the state.

The conference was divided into sections on "Probation and Parole", "Public Health". The emphasis was on case work - family, rural, and child welfare. The need of a T. B. Sanitarium was stressed and the work of a Red Cross Field Representative interestingly outlined.

Birth Control - its meaning and its relationship to social problems was the subject of the address by Dr. J. F. Cooper, Medical Director, Clinical Research Dept., American Birth Control League, New York.

One of the speakers remembers "there was the usual Survey table with a very nice girl in charge". She was so intrigued with Orlando she had about decided to buy an orange grove and settle down.

Of note is the invitation issued to "members and prospective members of American Association of Social Workers" to attend the 1st meeting of that group at a Florida State Conference gathering.

11th State Conference of Social Work - 1927

The State Conference met in St. Augustine, February 1927, with this theme "What we are doing and what we ought to do in Florida". Home demonstration workers met with social workers "because (said their speaker) our work is so closely connected with the social work of the state".

Institutions represented at the Institutional Session were Hope Haven, the Methodist Orphanage at Benson Springs; American Advent Christian Home and Orphanage, Dowling Park; Daniel Memorial, St. Mary's Home in Jacksonville; County Detention Home, Miami; Boys' Home Association, Jacksonville; Palm Beach County Children's Home, and the Boys' Industrial School at Marianna and Girls' Industrial School at Ocala. The School for Deaf and Blind and the Farm Colony.

The creation of a State Board of Welfare was advocated.

On the program were Margaret Shepherd McKinloch discussing some of her problems as county welfare worker in Fort Myers and Mrs. Grace Nesbit with an account of her work as Travelers Aid in Jacksonville. Mrs. Lela Terhune of Gainesville advocated the need for social workers' salaries to be paid from tax funds.

Dr. John Lapp, National Conference president, dwelt on optimism - he cautioned social workers against becoming pessimistic because they deal with the graver side of life. He held that the world is growing better and that social work is helping. He made a plea for publicity - let the world know what social work is and more funds will be available for the work.

Henry M. Baker, National Red Cross Director for Miami Storm area, spoke on "What the American Red Cross has done in Florida".

Judge Edith A. Kinson, chairman of the legislative committee, presented a report suggestive of proposed legislation - chief among the recommendations was a State Board of Welfare. "The solution of many of our welfare problems would be achieved if there were a State Board of Welfare in operation with county boards of welfare as subsidiaries - it would help to put Florida on a par with the whole U. S. where the welfare of its citizens is concerned."

A state T. B. hospital was advocated, adequate appropriation for State Board of Health, a new building at Chattahoochee, change in Mothers' Pension law to clear up the idea that aid is only for school children during the school year - tightening of child labor law and other needed legislation.

The American Legion, represented for the first time by Capt. Bill Steitz, promised cooperation in social legislation.

Mrs. Pepper and Mrs. J. W. McClelland of Gainesville and Florida Federation of Women's Clubs took active parts in the program. Miss Minnie Bush, then with St. Johns County Welfare Federation, was active in local plans.

Mrs. Ruth W. Atkinson was made president of the conference to meet in Lakeland the following year.

Private agencies were represented and local Community Chests. The Red Cross was prominent - Baker and J. Arthur Jeffries from National headquarters were speakers. The Probation Association held its customary luncheon and state people discussed work and needs.

The banquet was held at the Ponce de Leon with Hon. John A. Lapp, Chicago, President National Conference of Social Work; Hon. Allen T. Burns, New York, and Henry M. Baker, Washington, as honor guests. Rates at St. Augustine hotels in 1927 prove Florida had a boom - \$4.00 per day for room, \$1.00, breakfast; \$1.25, lunch; \$1.50, dinner, were about minimum prices paid.

It was a very full and enjoyable conference. Only one copy of the program is available.

12th State Conference of Social Work - 1928

In March 1928 the State Conference of Social Work held its 12th session in Lakeland. Mrs. Ruth W. Atkinson was president, Mrs. Bertha Steitz, Secretary; Mrs. M. F. Bishop, local chairman and Mrs. Emeth Tuttle Cochran, publicity chairman.

This conference provided more "firsts" for social work than any preceding conference. The president made a special effort before the conference session to get the governor to appoint the members of the State Board of Welfare which had been created by the 1927 legislature but had not yet functioned. This effort was successful and the newly appointed board met for the first time with the conference which had looked forward to a State Board for Florida from its initial meeting in 1911. The Board at its special meeting selected an advisory committee made up of Judge W. S. Criswell, Mrs. Atkinson, Marcus Fagg and others.

Thanks were expressed to Governor Martin for "making possible the presence of the State Board of Public Welfare at our state conference."

Dr. Bristol offered a resolution to be sent Mrs. Willis Bell of the Board of Public Welfare after the conference advising the conference would insist that appointment to office of welfare commissioner be in line with the provisions of the bill "shall have had at least five years of practical experience as a welfare executive." (See Appendix.)

The First minutes in the conference book deal with the Executive Committee meetings leading up to the Lakeland Conference. The County as a Welfare Unit was selected as the theme.

The first institute in connection with the conference was held the day prior to the opening of the conference. Dr. Frank J. Bruno of Washington University, St. Louis, conducted this institution on Family Case Work. The fair sized room in the Elks Home set aside for the institute was overflowing at every session.

Exhibits were another First - They were interesting and accessible and crowded all the time.

The Hand Out, a daily bulletin was handed out each morning. A mimeographed sheet, it gave the news and comment of the conference.

Mothers' Pensions, discussed at previous conferences was accorded a place on the Lakeland program and a definite report made on its operation in 59 counties in the state. This report by Emeth Tuttle Cochran was later printed by the conference.

Miss Emma Puschner, Social Service Director of the American Legion, presented the Progress of the Child Welfare Program of the Legion. It was at this time that the Legion was planning its state survey of crippled children and Constance Rabin of West Palm Beach was selected to organize it.

Sherman Kingsley, President of the National Conference of Social Welfare, spoke on Placing the Responsibility for Human Welfare. Dr. Bruno in a general meeting asked "Has the Home Lost its Halo?" And answered his own question in the negative. Mrs. Minnie Moore Wilson talked about the Seminole Indians and advocated the Everglades as a National Park. There was an interesting exhibit of Indian treasures.

Several negro social workers and educators attended the conference and interracial problems were discussed.

In addition to the newly created State Board of Welfare, the Florida Public Health Association, the Florida Probation Society, the American Red Cross and ~~two~~ member of the International Association of Policewomen met with the conference.

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